

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Canceled)

1 **Claim 2 (Previously presented):** A camera according to
2 claim 8,
3 wherein one of the first optical filter and the
4 second optical filter is a color filter and the other is
5 a black-and-white filter, and
6 wherein the color filter is switched to obtain a
7 color image during the day with a high image signal
8 level, and the black-and-white filter is switched to
9 obtain a black-and-white image at night with a low image
10 signal level.

1 **Claim 3 (Previously presented):** A camera according to
2 claim 8 or 2, further comprising
3 detecting means which detects a level of the image
4 signal output from the image pick-up element,
5 wherein the first optical filter and the second
6 optical filter are automatically switched depending on
7 the signal level thus detected.

1 **Claim 4 (Currently amended):** A method of switching
2 optical filters of a camera, said method comprising the
3 steps of:
4 forming an image on an image pick-up element through
5 a lens provided on a camera body;

6 converting the image into an electrical signal
7 through the image pick-up element, thereby obtaining an
8 image signal;
9 detecting a level of the image signal output from
10 the image pick-up element; [[and]]
11 selectively positioning one of a first optical
12 filter and a second optical filter in front of the image
13 pick-up element depending on the detected signal
14 level[[.]];
15 outputting character information to a monitor
16 including a screen, wherein the character information is
17 indicative of which of the filters is positioned in front
18 of the image pick-up element in the step of selectively
19 positioning; and
20 displaying the character information, together with
21 the image or another image shot by the camera, on the
22 screen.

1 **Claim 5 (Previously presented):** A method of switching
2 optical filters of a camera according to claim 4,
3 wherein one of the first optical filter and the
4 second optical filter is a color filter and the other is
5 a black-and-white filter, and
6 wherein the color filter is switched to obtain a
7 color image during the day with a high image signal
8 level, and the black-and-white filter is switched to
9 obtain a black-and-white image at night with a low image
10 signal level.

1 **Claim 6 (Canceled)**

1 **Claim 7 (Currently amended):** A method of switching

2 optical filters of a camera, according to claim 5[[6]],
3 wherein the character information
4 indicates~~indicating~~ that a black-and-white image is
5 displayed on the screen of the monitor, when said image
6 shot by the camera is automatically switched from a color
7 image to a black-and-white image after detecting an image
8 pick-up environment.

1 **Claim 8 (Currently amended):** A camera comprising:
2 a lens provided on a camera body;
3 an image pick-up element for converting an image
4 [[is]] provided by the lens into an electrical image
5 signal;
6 a first optical filter;
7 a second optical filter; and
8 optical filter switching mechanism for selectively
9 positioning one of the first optical filter and the
10 second optical filter in front of the image pick-up
11 element based on a level of the image signal; and
12 an image signal transmission interface for
13 outputting character information to a monitor for display
14 thereon together with the image or another image shot by
15 the camera, wherein the character information is
16 indicative of which of the filters is positioned in front
17 of the image pick-up element by the optical filter
18 switching mechanism.